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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

29 June

The 254 Airforce Regiment Now Stationed at Grobnicko Polje Airfield near Rijeka

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- The 254 Air Regiment has been stationed at the Grobnicko Polje airfield near Rijeka, since 22 March 1951. The Regiment has a total of 19 planes, three of which are PE-2 (PO-2), six are IL-2 planes and ten are YAK-2 aircraft. The Regiment is under the jurisdiction of the Air Division in Zagreb, and two Spitfires which are not in the best state of repairs, maintain daily contact with the headquarters command. Continuous day and night training flights are carried out by the various squadrons of the Regiment over Rijeka and vicinity.
- 2. Major Relja Vasic, from Paracin, is Commander of the 254 Air Regiment. His regiment has at present four squadrons, whereas up to the early part of 1951 it had five squadrons with a total of 24 planes. One squadron was disbanded when it became necessary to send out five planes for general repairs.
- 3. The Grobnicko Polje airfield has no major workshop, or spare part stores, and when the need arises for major repairs to the engine or the plane, these must be shipped by rail to one of the larger Yugoslav repair workshops. As a consequence, only 30 percent of the planes in this Regiment could reportedly be made use of in the event of war, and only until such time as major repairs become necessary.
- It is rumored that the 254 Air Regiment will eventually return to Nova Gorica near Zagreb, and that only one squadron will remain at Rijeka.

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